

Ladies and gentlemen, imagine a bustling port city, filled with ships from distant lands, merchants haggling over spices, and the aroma of exotic goods wafting through the air. This is Alexandria in the third century BC--an epicenter of culture and knowledge.

Picture the great Library of Alexandria, a towering beacon of learning where scholars gathered from across the ancient world. Among them was Eratosthenes, a brilliant mind who dared to ask a simple, yet profound, question: How large is our Earth? With a keen eye and a critical mind, he noticed a peculiar phenomenon. In the town of Syene to the south, the sun cast no shadow at noon during the summer solstice, while in Alexandria, a shadow remained.

Ingeniously, Eratosthenes used this observation, along with some basic geometry and surveying, to calculate the Earth's circumference. His figure, remarkably close to our modern measurements, not only demonstrated the power of human curiosity and intellect but also cemented Alexandria's reputation as a cradle of scientific thought.

As we delve into history, let us remember these stories of innovation and wonder, for they are not just relics of the past but stepping stones that have paved the way to our present. Thank you.